

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 COME-00 FCC-02 CCO-00 CIAE-00

OTPE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 OC-05 BIB-01 ACDA-10 DODE-00

PM-03 L-02 NASA-02 NSC-05 OES-05 (ISO) R

DRAFTED BY EB/TD:ALFREEMAN:DB

APPROVED BY EB/TD:RTBLACK

FCC - MR. GREENBURG

COMMERCE - MR. CORLESS

COMSAT GENERAL - MR. FLORA

ARA/NC - MR. MAISTO

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R 182008Z APR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

UNCLAS STATE 089486

E.O.11652: N/A

SUBJECT: MARITIME COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE - CCP PROGRAM

REF: CARACAS 3982

1. LAUNCH OF FIRST OF TWO SATELLITES IN MARISAT SYSTEM
EXPECTED AUGUST 1975. LAUNCH OF SECOND SATELLITE
ANTICIPATED APPROXIMATELY SIXTY DAYS THEREAFTER. FIRST
SATELLITE IS INTENDED FOR EMPLACEMENT IN SYNCHRONOUS
EQUATORIAL ORBIT OVER ATLANTIC OCEAN AT 15 DEGREES WEST
LONGITUDE. SECOND SATELLITE IS INTENDED FOR PACIFIC OCEAN
AT 176.5 DEGREES EAST LONGITUDE.

2. MARISAT WAS AUTHORIZED BY THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION TO PROVIDE LIMITED DEVELOPMENTAL COMMERCIAL
SERVICE. EXPECTATION IS THAT FOREIGN FLEETS WILL BE
PERMITTED ACCESS TO MARISAT SATELLITES FROM SHIPS, BUT
ACCESS TO SATELLITES FROM LAND EARTH STATIONS OUTSIDE
THE U.S. WAS NOT ENCOMPASSED WITHIN SYSTEM AUTHORIZED BY
FCC.

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3. MARISAT IS A PRIVATE UNDERTAKING BY A CONSORTIUM OF
U.S. COMMUNICATIONS COMPANIES. COMSAT GENERAL CORPORATION
950 L'ENFANT PLAZA, S.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20024, HAS BEEN
DESIGNATED MANAGER OF THE CONSORTIUM, AND QUESTIONS

RELATING TO SYSTEM DESIGN AND OPERATION MAY BE DIRECTED TO
IT. FOREIGN MERCHANT MARINE FLEETS SHOULD COORDINATE THEIR
EVENTUAL PARTICIPATION WITH THE FCC.

4. SHORE AND SHIPBOARD EQUIPMENT IS COMMERCIALY
AVAILABLE AND IT IS SUGGESTED THAT POTENTIAL USERS OF THE
SATELLITES CORRESPOND DIRECTLY WITH COMSAT GENERAL
REGARDING SUCH EQUIPMENT. KISSINGER

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